

The Participle

5e. A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

(1) **Present participles** end in *-ing*.

(2) **Past participles** usually end in *-d* or *-ed*. Some past participles are formed irregularly.

PRESENT PARTICIPLES **Concentrating** carefully, Steve hit the **speeding** ball.

PAST PARTICIPLES An **experienced** player, Josh was the **chosen** pitcher.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, circle the participle that modifies the underlined noun or pronoun.

Example 1. The stretched net suddenly broke.

- The elected captain thanked her teammates.
- The shouting fans encouraged the runners.
- The painted goal posts were hard to miss.
- The cheering crowd stomped their feet in the bleachers.
- The lines on the track, newly painted, guided the runners.
- Spiking the volleyball, she scored another point for her team.
- The sports equipment, mistreated all year, looked old.
- Smiling cheerleaders stepped in front of the crowd.
- The popcorn vendor, calling loudly, climbed the bleachers.
- Feeling hungry, I bought popcorn and a bottle of water.

EXERCISE B Underline the participle that is used as an adjective in each of the following sentences, and draw an arrow to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

Example 1. I covered the shivering child with a blanket.

- Playing in the sand, the children laughed happily.
- Cheryl's chosen career is engineering.
- Is all this used furniture for sale?
- Tad's older sister, talking excitedly, explained the joke to us.
- The fallen leaves still covered the ground in early spring.

The Participial Phrase

5f. A **participial phrase** consists of a participle together with its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

EXAMPLE Standing in a long line, the group of teenagers waited to see the new movie.

EXERCISE A Underline each participial phrase in the following sentences, and draw an arrow from it to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

Example 1. Born in 1899, Alfred Hitchcock lived eighty-one years.

1. Alfred Hitchcock, respected by his colleagues, earned an important place among film directors.
2. Known as the “master of suspense,” he created dark, suspenseful moods in his films.
3. Remaining faithful to this trademark tone, he directed movies throughout five decades.
4. Hitchcock’s films, criticized by some, maintained a dramatic flair.
5. Some of the movies directed by Hitchcock are *Dial M for Murder*, *Rear Window*, and *The Birds*.
6. Turning to the television format, Hitchcock also hosted a series for television.
7. The television show hosted by Hitchcock was *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.
8. It was a mystery series featuring a different story and different actors each week.
9. Still airing as reruns, episodes feature actors such as Robert Redford.
10. Never honored with an Academy Award for best director, Hitchcock remains best director to many fans.

EXERCISE B On the lines provided, write sentences using the following word groups as participial phrases. Then, circle the noun or pronoun that each participial phrase modifies.

Example 1. talking to her friends Talking to her friends, (Jen) walked by me without stopping.

11. painted a bright yellow _____

12. blowing wildly in the wind _____

13. frozen solid as a rock _____

14. singing in the shower _____

15. stuffed into my tiny locker _____
